

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A generally rectangular siding panel having a front and rear faces, said rear face  
2 having a first area proximate to a top end of said rear face shaped such that at least a  
3 portion of said area sits substantially flush with a portion of a vertical wall when said  
4 siding panel is secured to said vertical wall and angled to overlap at least a portion of a  
5 second siding panel secured to said vertical wall.
- 1 2. The siding panel of claim 1, wherein said siding panel is a clapboard siding panel.
- 1 3. The siding panel of claim 1, wherein said siding panel is a fiber cement or wood  
2 clapboard siding panel.
- 1 4. The siding panel of claim 1, wherein said first area comprises a reinforced area
- 1 5. The siding panel of claim 4, wherein said reinforced area comprises a protruding  
2 area that extends substantially along the entire length of said rear face.
- 1 6. The siding panel of claim 4, wherein said reinforced area includes a planar first  
2 face that is disposed to contact said portion of said vertical wall, said planar first face  
3 having a height of about at least one inch.
- 1 7. The siding panel of claim 4, wherein said reinforced area includes a planar face a  
2 planar face that is disposed to sit substantially flush with said portion of said vertical wall  
3 when said rear face overlaps said second siding panel such that a major portion of said  
4 rear face forms an angle with said vertical wall between about 1-10 degrees.
- 1 8. The assembly of claim 4, wherein said reinforced area comprises: a thickened  
2 portion, a resinous, fibrous or particulate reinforcement, a fabric, scrim or panel.
- 1 9. A siding panel assembly, comprising:

2 at least a first and a second siding panels attached to a vertical wall of a structure,  
3 each of said siding panels being a generally rectangular shaped panel having a front and  
4 rear faces, said first siding panel angled to overlap at least a portion of said second siding  
5 panel, said rear face of at least said first siding panel having a reinforced area proximate  
6 to a top end of said rear face, shaped such that at least a portion of said area sits  
7 substantially flush with a portion of said vertical wall.

1 10. The assembly of claim 9, wherein said reinforced area extends substantially along  
2 the entire length of said rear face.

1 11. The assembly of claim 9, wherein said siding panels are fiber cement clapboard  
2 siding panels.

1 12. The assembly of claim 9, wherein said siding panels are installed using a blind  
2 nail method using a plurality of nails and at least some of said nails are disposed through  
3 said reinforced area.

1 13. The assembly of claim 9, wherein said siding panels are installed using a face nail  
2 method using a plurality of nails and at least some of said nails are disposed through said  
3 reinforced area.

1 14. The assembly of claim 9, wherein said siding panels are secured to said vertical  
2 wall at least in part by a series of fasteners extending through said respective siding  
3 panels and into said vertical wall, wherein at least some of said fasteners are disposed  
4 through said reinforced area.

1 15. The assembly of claim 9, wherein said reinforced area includes a planar first face  
2 that contacts said portion of said vertical wall, said planar first face having a height of at  
3 least about one inch.

1 16. The assembly of claim 9, wherein said reinforced area includes a planar face that  
2 contacts said portion of said vertical wall, said planar face extending from a top edge of  
3 said first siding panel at an angle that substantially matches an angle between said rear  
4 face of said first panel and said wall created by said overlap.

1 17. A method of installing a siding panel assembly on a structure, comprising the  
2 following steps:

3 providing at least a first and second siding panels, each of said siding panels being  
4 a generally rectangular shaped panel having a front and rear faces, said rear face of at  
5 least said first siding panel having a first area proximate to a top end of said rear face  
6 shaped such that at least a portion of said area sits substantially flush with a portion of  
7 said vertical wall when said first siding panel is secured to said wall and angled to  
8 overlap at least a portion of said second siding panel; and

9 attaching said first and second siding panels to said structure such that a rear face  
10 of said first siding panel partially overlaps a front face of said second siding panel.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said first area is a reinforced area.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein:

2 said attaching step utilizes a blind nail attachment method comprising driving a  
3 series of nails through said first siding panel, through said reinforced area and into said  
4 vertical wall.

1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein:

2 said attaching step utilizes a face nail attachment method comprising driving a  
3 series of nails through said first siding panel, through said reinforced area and into said  
4 vertical wall.

1 21. The method of claim 17, wherein said attaching step includes the step of driving a  
2 series of nails fasteners through said first area of said first siding panel.

1 22. The method of claim 17, wherein said siding panels are clapboard siding panels.

1 23. The method of claim 17, wherein said siding panels are fiber cement clapboard  
2 siding panels.

1 24. The method of claim 17, wherein said first area includes a planar face that  
2 contacts said portion of said vertical wall and a major portion of said rear face forms an  
3 angle with said vertical wall between about 1-10 degrees.

1 25. A generally rectangular shaped clapboard siding panel having a front and rear  
2 faces, said rear face having a protruding area proximate to a top end of said rear face  
3 shaped such that at least a portion of said area sits substantially flush with a portion of a  
4 vertical wall when said siding panel is secured to said vertical wall and angled to overlap  
5 at least a portion of a second siding panel secured to said vertical wall, such that said  
6 vertical wall provides support for said rear face when fasteners are driven through said  
7 clapboard siding panel and into said vertical wall through said protruding area.

1 26. The siding panel of claim 25, wherein said protruding area includes a planar face  
2 that is disposed to sit substantially flush with said portion of said vertical wall when said  
3 rear face overlaps said second siding panel such that a major portion of said rear face  
4 forms an angle with said vertical wall between about 1-10 degrees.

1 27. A siding panel having front and rear faces and a longitudinal length, said rear  
2 surface having a first portion forming an oblique angle with respect to a vertical wall to  
3 which said siding panel is affixed, said rear surface of said siding panel also including a  
4 second portion which is disposed in substantially flush contact with said vertical wall  
5 when said siding panel is affixed to said vertical wall.